

Background for the establishment of UTMY

In May 2018, as a part of the restart of the Look East policies proposed by Prime Minister Mahathir following his return to political administration, the Malaysian government requested the establishment of “overseas branch campuses” of Japanese universities. Prime Minister Mahathir’s concept of these campuses consists of courses taught in Japanese, educational activities promoting the understanding and acquisition of Japanese culture, lifestyle, and ethics, as well as providing the opportunity for students in surrounding countries to experience Japanese-style education.

2018	Meeting between University President Nagata and Prime Minister Mahathir. Prime Minister Mahathir once again requests the establishment of a branch campus of the University of Tsukuba.
2020	Muhyiddin Yassin becomes the new Prime Minister in Malaysia and expresses a desire to continue the branch campus plan in an official letter to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Official consent by both universities is given to use property owned by Universiti Malaya as the site of the branch campus.
2021	The governing council of the University of Tsukuba approves the establishment of a branch campus in Malaysia.
2022	At a Japan-Malaysia Summit Meeting, Prime Minister Kishida stated that he hoped for the early opening of a branch campus of the University of Tsukuba. In response, Prime Minister Ismail Sabri emphasized the importance of the its establishment and explained that he given instructions to realize this initiative.
2023	MOHE approves UT application as a PHEI (STAGE1)

On March 2023, Ambassador Takahashi signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with Y.B. Dato’ Seri Haji Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin, Minister of Higher Education (MOHE), regarding the establishment of the University of Tsukuba, Malaysia.

In his speech, Ambassador Takahashi expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Malaysian Government including the MOHE and stated that Japan intends to continue working closely with the Malaysian Government in order to open the first overseas branch campus of a Japanese university in September 2024.